THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 49. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Feb. 20th, 3 p.m.—Poster Parade starting from 55 Fife Road, Canning Town.

Sunday, Feb. 21st, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Mrs. Davies. Chair: Miss Manicom.
8 p.m.—**Public Hall, Canning Town—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Parsons, Councillor Jack Jones.**

Monday, Feb. 22nd, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—Hackney, Powerscroft Rd. Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates.—Mr. Mewett.

Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Miss S. Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m. — Poplar Women's Hall — Mrs. Walshe.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Mrs. Schlette.

Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Walker.

Thursday, Feb. 25th, 3 p.m. — Deacon's Vestry.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Mr. Kennedy.
8 p.m.—Bow Obelisk—Mrs. Walker.

Friday, Feb. 26th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Mrs. Scurr.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Members' Meeting.

Sunday, Feb. 28th, 8 p.m.—**Bow Baths—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Lady Emily Lutyens.**

THE POPLAR SUFFRAGE CLUB,

20 Railway Street, Poplar, E., open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 7 to 10. All women welcome. Membership fee, 1d. a month. Members of the E.L.F.S. free.

We wish to appeal for Books and illustrated papers for the Poplar Suffrage Club.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor attendances and baby weighing—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, garments and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

PUBLIC MEETING

Canning Town Public Hall,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Councillor JACK JONES.
CHAIR: MRS. PARSONS.

BOW BATHS, Sunday, Feb. 28,

AT 8 P.M.
A LECTURE
BY LADY EMILY LUTYENS,
ON
The Theosophic Ideal.

CHAIR: MISS S. PANKHURST.

ADMISSION FREE.

STARVED TO DEATH.

R.E.S.; aged 7 weeks; male.
Union.—Wisbech.
Date of Inquest.—22nd Feb., 1913.
Verdict.—Acute pneumonia probably accelerated by neglect of parents.
Remarks by Coroner.—Male parent censured.
Observations of Guaraians.—On the 20th December, 1912, the guardians granted the child's father an order for the attendance of the district medical officer at his wife's confinement. The guardians also undertook to bury the child. The case was not in any other way brought under the notice of the relieving officer, and no other application for relief was made. Admission to the workhouse was not offered.

G.B.S.; aged 11 months; male.
Union.—Hartlepool.
Date of Inquest.—18th March, 1913.
Verdict.—Death resulted from neglect.
Remarks by Coroner.—The mother of deceased was prosecuted under the Children's Act for neglect, convicted and sent to prison.
Observations of Guardians.—The guardians forwarded a copy of the case-paper relating to this case, from which it appeared that deceased was the illegitimate child of M.A.R. stated by the police to be a prostitute. The woman had been tramping the country with a street musician, the putative father of the child, and living in common lodging houses. The man had recently left her. Apparently the condition of the child had been noticed by an inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; and the child was medically examined at the police station and reported to be suffering from acute bronchitis, &c. Both mother and child were taken to the workhouse by the police.

W.T.; aged 10 weeks; male.
Union.—North Bierley.
Date of Inquest.—29th April, 1913.
Verdict.—Bronchitis and insufficient nourishment owing to the want of means of the parents.
Remarks by Coroner.—Parents made no application for relief.
Observations of Guardians.—No application for relief was made by the parents of the deceased child to the guardians or their officers. The case of this family was brought under the notice of the relieving officer by the death of the child's mother in August, 1913 (later) when the guardians paid the burial expenses. The earnings of the husband at that time were stated to be £1 per week, and the only dependent was one child aged three years.

The above extracts are taken from a White Paper entitled "Deaths from Starvation or Accelerated by Privation (England and Wales)." The crime for which a "male parent" was "censured" and a mother "prosecuted, convicted and sent to prison" was nothing but poverty. The Guardians had helped at the birth of the child in the first case, and had paid the expenses of its burial, but during the seven weeks of its life had done nothing to save it. This is a report for the year 1913, but conditions are still the same. The babies of the very poor are left to chance—the chance that private philanthropy will step in and save their lives and their health. The only assistance offered by the Nation, at its own expense, is deliberately made so distasteful to self-respecting people that, out of 63 cases of death brought in by the coroner's jury as directly or indirectly due to starvation (and the jury will only do this in the most flagrant cases) 62 made no application for relief themselves, preferring death by starvation. In a few cases however, the landlady or the police made the application, too late to save life.

The remaining case is worthy of attention, as the woman in question was receiving out-relief from the Lambeth Guardians (notorious for their attempt to inculcate patriotism and incidentally to save the rates by depriving the workhouse children of their eggs last December.)

The woman was 69 when she died, and was receiving 3s. 6d. for food from the Guardians, and 6d. for fuel—a total of 4s. a week! "On many occasions" the report states "she was urged to go to the workhouse, but always gave an emphatic refusal." She preferred semi-starvation on 4s. a week to incarceration in the workhouse. Is any further comment on the way the Nation treats its poor women necessary?

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Dear Madam,—In a few weeks the Elections of Guardians of the Poor, will take place in most parts of England and Wales. In no department of Government is the presence of humane women more necessary than in the Relief of the Poor. May I therefore express an earnest hope that the Women's Associations will put up Women Candidates who are in favour of adequate out-relief for widows who are bringing up their children properly, and medical relief for married women and children where necessary, on the mother's own application; and for humane administration of the Poor Law.

The office of guardian, though of the utmost importance, does not require so much time as the Town Council, and the trouble and expense of a contest are far less.

J. THEODORE DODD,
(For 15 years a Guardian of the Poor.)

In a valuable article in the *Mansfield House Magazine*, Mr. Theodore Dodd gives an account of a case which occurred in Southwark in December in which :

A man and his wife and family attempted to live on 6s. 6d. a week (after payment of of rent). The inquest was held on one of these children, aged 15 months. The Doctor said the child weighed 7 lb. 6 oz. instead of the normal weight of 18 lb. or 20 lb. Death was due to pneumonia, the child's emaciated condition being against its recovering from the attack. They had no relief; though of course the child ought to have had Poor Law Medical Relief—which would have included whatever milk, etc., the doctor ordered. In all probability, however, the parents never applied for it. Here is the tragedy. English children have a right to relief; the parents ought to apply, but they don't.

Mr. Dodd urges—

It should be carefully explained to the poor that it is both their moral duty under the Sixth Commandment, as it is their legal duty under the Law of the Land (8 Edw. VII., c. 67, s. 12), to apply for Poor Law relief when their children are ill and they cannot otherwise obtain necessary assistance; and that medical relief (only)—although including milk, beef-tea, etc., if ordered by the doctor—does not disenfranchise.

On February 16th, Mr. Pease stated in the House of Commons that for 13,000 of the children turned out of school by the military authorities, no provision has yet been made.

In the House of Commons on February 15th, Mr. Davison Dalziel stated that 42 wounded soldiers are to be removed from the hospital in the outbuildings of Epsom Grand Stand because of the Spring races and that some of these men cannot be moved without serious risk.

The Government do not hesitate to deprive the children of their schools to make way for the troops, but the wounded soldiers are forced to make way for the races!

DON'T TAKE A MAN'S WORK WITHOUT A MAN'S WAGE.

In Birmingham it is said that between 60,000 and 70,000 artisans have enlisted and that the places of a large proportion have been taken by women earning 12s. a week!

In Northampton boot making factories, the employers attempted to employ women on men's work. The Boot and Shoe Operatives Trade Union objected because they thought that the introduction of women workers would bring the prices down. The shortage of labour was met by working overtime. This can only be a temporary expedient. As more men go to War, more workers will be needed. The only safe course is to demand that if a woman is employed she shall receive a man's pay.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, reports serious unemployment amongst women clerks in London, also that the wages of those employed are being cut down by anything from 10 to 50 per cent., and that certain firms are compelling a holiday without wages one week in three.

Messrs. Lyons are beginning gradually to employ women clerks instead of men at their head office, Cadby Hall. They report that the women work "very satisfactorily indeed." But what is their pay?

SWEATED WOMEN IN REVOLT.

Possibilities of a strike among the Leeds khaki operatives are not remote.

The women operatives, who number some 36,000, formulated a demand on January 18th for a flat rate scale of pay for Government work, and a conference between the employers and the operatives was arranged.

All negotiations were suddenly broken off, and considerable excitement prevails in the factories.

On Monday, a mass meeting was held in the Town Hall.

It was decided not to adopt a general strike as improved prices had been secured in many factories, but the members of the Clothing Trade Union decided to levy themselves to support the claims of women who decided to come out on strike against employers refusing to pay on the improved scale

The *Nursing Times* gives the following list of salaries paid to nurses by various organisations for service at the front :—

The Joint War Committee: £1 a week, with an allowance of £4 and indoor uniform and 2s. 6d. for washing. (This allowance is quite insufficient : one nurse tells us that in France she has to pay more than 5s. weekly for laundry and she is now arranging to send her washing to England.)

Anglo-American Hospital, Wimereux : £1 a week, outfit and laundry allowance.

Nurses' Missionary League: Some nurses voluntary, others expenses only, and the remainder about £1 and expenses. All provide their own outfit.

N.U.T.N.: From £1 1s. a week down to nothing, average about £35; laundry expenses have not been mentioned.

Church Army: Some voluntary, others same rate as Army nurses; board, outfit, washing and fares provided.

Catholic Nurses' League: At first many went without pay, now usually £1 a week with laundry and extra expenses.

Women's Emergency Service Corps: No salary, but board, laundry and travelling; nurses buy their own uniform.

Navy League: At beginning no salary but expenses; some afterwards got a gratuity. Lately they have got £1 1s. with travelling, board and laundry.

French Flag Corps: £41 10s. a year as salary, £4 for uniform and £14 for rooms; food and fare paid. Laundry is done at Government expense.

Scottish Women's Hospital : £50 a year, uniform, board and laundry.

French Red Cross : No salary, but laundry expenses and fares.

Serbia : No salary and may have to pay part cost of journey.

(*Continued on page* 199, *col.* 1.)

WOMEN! JOIN THE
East London Federation of the Suffragettes —
WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

A SOCIAL
WILL BE HELD AT
20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR,
On Saturday, February 27th,
AT 7.30 SHARP.
TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED NOW.

The Woman's Dreadnought.
Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.
Telephone EAST 422.
Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St. Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.
Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.
Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.
No. 49.—Saturday, Feb. 20th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

WHAT BARREN POLITICS!

It is clear that the Government will do nothing to prevent extortionate profits being made out of the people's food, whilst the people remain quiescent.

Mr. Asquith's speech in the food prices debate was callous, even frivolous in its tone. On his own estimate, the price of food has risen by 24% in London and 23% in the large towns, an estimate which is undoubtedly too low, for whilst he gives rises of 72, 75, and 72% respectively for wheat, flour, and sugar, he gives only 15 and 12% as the rise on coal and foreign meat. Sir Arthur Markham gives the rise in coal as 70 and 100 %, and many a poor housewife knows him to be right.

But even a rise of 23 and 24 % on the necessaries of life which Mr. Asquith estimates, is a monstrous burden to the poor, and Mr. Asquith suggests no remedy. Let things go on as they are, he says, perhaps, in the natural course of events, wheat prices (he forecasts no others) may fall in June.

Mr. Asquith says that the people are not suffering from the rise in prices, because, as far as he knows, the working people (the wealth producers, whom, with surprising effrontery he refers to as "the consuming classes)," are eating little less, collectively, than they did before the War. Yet, in the same breath, he admits that the men of the New Army, who are being billeted at 3s. 6d. (now raised to 3s. 9d.) a day, are eating far more than thousands of them could ever eat, when instead of 25s. a week being set aside for their individual board and lodging merely, as at present, they had to keep up homes for wives and families of children on something over £1 a week. Yes, the men of the New Army are eating more and in inverse ratio the civilian workers, especially the women and children, are undoubtedly eating less.

Mr. Bonar Law, the spokesman of conservative business men, spoke more humanely than Mr. Asquith, who with his Government, has made such a boast of love for the people's weal. Mr. Bonar Law admitted that it is the duty of the Nation to adopt responsibility for the people's food "to secure that conditions of life at home are as good as they can be," and to assume the powers of a dictatorship, should it be necessary, to secure this.

He urged that the Government might have prevented the rise in wheat prices if they had bought extensively when War began. He admitted, as Mr. Asquith and Mr. Runciman refused to do, that shipowners are now "making enormous profits and that those profits simply come from the very cause for which the people of the country are making sacrifices." He said that a limit should be set to these profits.

Members of the Labour Party said these same things, and scarcely more strongly, though from them one might have expected greater determination. The Labour Party presented, unfortunately, no clear definite scheme. They did not meet the argument that if prices in this country are kept low, the merchants from overseas will prefer to sell their goods in other markets. Yet the answer is very clear. Let the Government fix maximum prices and profits, and should the price in the world market rise above these, let the Government step in to meet the deficit, so that instead of the poorest going short, we all may share the cost on equal terms.

The debate has left things just as they were before. The Speaker refused to accept the closure and both motion and amendment were talked out.

Mr. Runciman urged that the high price question can be solved by a rise in wages, and boasted that in the Government dockyards the men's wages had been raised. He omitted to say that the increases totalled something less than 1s. per man, per week.

The strong Trade Unions have already adopted Mr. McKenna's method of dealing with the situation. Already there have been strikes and threats of strikes to secure increases in wages to cover the added cost of living.

But what of the people who do not belong to strong Trade Unions, the unskilled labourers, the men and women clerks and typists, the women engaged in clothing, match-making, and numberless other ill-paid trades? What is to happen to the widows who maintain their children on Poor Law doles and "a little washing and charing," for private people; what is to happen to the people, most of them women, who keep the little corner shops in poor streets and are, if anything, poorer than their customers, and the women who are employed for 10s. a week in the Queen's workrooms?

The Government and Parliament as a whole, care little or nothing for such defenceless people. If the poor women who are unable to buy necessaries for their families, would begin to help themselves to food when they can get it, they would set a force moving which would soon become a mountain of popular resentment and determination. They would certainly do this if they could realise to the full their own vital importance to the community and the right to a share of the Nation's wealth, which is theirs and their children's, although denied to them.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

HIGH PRICES AND PLENTY.

The price of bacon is going up. An Exchange message says: "Denmark this week has killed 67,000 pigs, the bulk of which will come to this country in the form of bacon. These figures eclipse all records." We wait to see who will profit by the increased supply—the housewife or the dealer. If women had the Vote, and were thus in a position to press their interests more strongly, the price of bacon would go down; but as it is, we fear that only the dealer will profit.

THE COST OF LIVING.

The Poplar Guardians have resolved that out-relief be increased by 20 per cent. on account of the rise in prices. When will the Government Committee, which administers the Prince of Wales's fund, follow suit?

NATIONAL COURACE.

Difficult and numerous are the national problems which, though ever with us, are becoming cruelly accentuated by the War. All our nation's courage, all our energy and spirit of self-abnegation, are needed for the task. Mr. Lloyd George has spoken of Russia's "suppression of the sale of all alcoholic liquors" as a "great act of national heroism and sacrifice."

"Heroism?" Some of us may say "heroism? Why, surely it is not heroic merely to deny oneself intoxicating drink!" But the problem goes deeper—for there is not merely the drinker to be considered, but also the many whose livelihood has been gained by the dealing in intoxicants, and the revenue secured by it for the State. The people who were engaged as brewers, vanmen, publicans, must find other ways of raising money; the people must bear other forms of taxation, now that the traffic in Vodka has been stopped.

But call Russia's suppression of the drink traffic heroism, or mere common-sense dealing, as one pleases. It is a line of conduct for which our country has not yet found either the energy or the courage, and it is just this type of energy that the problems facing us demand.

Take the question of shortage of men farm labourers.—Undoubtedly, it is easiest to engage school children to fill the places of men who have joined the Army; the children are ready to hand in the districts—even in the very cottages which the men have left. If other workers are to be employed, they must be collected and perhaps brought from long distances. Other workers, too, must be paid higher wages, whilst children can be had for a few shillings a week. It is simpler and cheaper, no doubt, to employ children as field labourers than to procure other adult workers. But is it fair to the children—is it best for them?

Many people have written to the Press suggesting that women should take the places of men as farm labourers, and others have replied protesting that women are not strong enough to endure the hardships that are entailed.

In the Scotch and English border counties there are more women farm labourers than men, and women are largely engaged in field labouring work all over the continent. But the life of a farm labourer is hard and painful—even dangerous to those who are neither specially fitted for it by nature, nor inured to it by long use. The average town bred woman may succumb to its rigours more speedily than the average town bred man, but it is only too apt to be destructive in either case; and if it is dangerous to the adult it is the more dangerous to undeveloped youth, that needs all its vital force for growing strong.

No one can realise that more clearly than one who watched by the deathbed of a town-bred boy, who became a farm labourer, and lived in a labourer's poor home, because he wanted to understand the reason of England's rural depopulation.

He was tall as a man, but, as yet, lacked a man's strength. He was given, as other boys on farms are, heavy work that only a strong man ought to do. Day after day in winter he went ditching, standing for hours in icy water reaching above his knees. The cottage in which he lived was badly built, ill-furnished, and overcrowded; the woman who kept it was in feeble health, her husband fast going blind. There was always a scarcity of food. The man was morose and sometimes violently cruel to his wife and children. Open quarrelling seldom took place before the lodger, but its atmosphere brooded about the place.

One of the boy's early tasks on the farm was to collect a field's crop of turnips from the furroughs, and get it into sacks ready to bundle into the cart that would come along in time to catch the market train. Hurriedly he went about his work, only to find when he had filled the sacks and sewn them up with string, as he had been told, that they were beyond his strength to lift, and that it was too near train time for the string to be undone and the loose turnips carried in smaller quantities to the edge of the field. At first he tried vainly to lift the sacks, but somehow, straining with all his force—staggering painfully—often falling to his knees, and sometimes compelled to lie for a time half fainting upon the ground, he accomplished at last the too hard task.

Somehow he had got the last sack to the gate when the cart drove up. It caught the train, and he returned, all dizzy and sick from over-straining, to a meal he could not eat.

His sister wept when he told her of such happenings afterwards, in the long restless nights. "Never mind, dear, it has made a man of me," he said. His words brought her no comfort, for she knew that it had killed him.

Farming machinery is so much more expensive than the labour of men and women field workers, in this country, still more than that of children, that much of the heavy lifting that ought to be done by mechanical power (and in America, where human labour is expensive would be) is left to the straining of men's and women's arms. Lack of mechanical aid, long hours, bad housing, and low wages, which mean cheap, insufficient food and clothes, make farm life harder than it should be for those who have reached the strength of maturity. How many well-to-do mothers would care to have thrust into it their little boys and girls of eleven and twelve years' old?

In the town of Senlis, near Paris, which the Germans had visited with burning and destruction, a woman standing by the charred ruins of her home, told us that the women of the district had gone out into the fields to work when the men were first taken away to fight, but that the work had made many of them ill, and that most of them had given it up.

She told us that the doles of relief paid out to persons suffering through the War were being discontinued—they cost so much and the people frequently abuse them.

Exactly her words coincided with what is so often said in our own country. It is so expensive to dole out relief week after week to the sufferers! But that is less the fault of the recipients of the mean unsatisfactory doles than of the central and local authorities, who have lacked the energy and initiative to organise productive work for men and single women, and whose hide-bound intelligences cannot realise that a woman who is feeding, washing, nursing and caring for a number of children, is doing productive work, which, beside being exceedingly arduous, is quite indispensable, and would have to be undertaken by others, at considerable cost to the ratepayer, if the women who are said to be "unemployed" should cease to do it.

And then it is said that the people who have been helped are slow in finding other employment, but men, and especially women, in middle life well know that although an old position of trust may be retained, for new situations younger people are almost invariably preferred.

It is complained that people refuse to take work that is offered to them. Sometimes they are physically incapable of doing it; sometimes it is offered on such terms that they believe that to accept it would be to affect injuriously the position of their working comrades. Most usually the offer made by Relief Committees means work under the Distress Committee, on a scale of pay lower than the scale of relief without work under the Prince of Wales's fund. The Prince of Wales's fund scale was fixed a little higher, because it was said that persons thrown out of employment by the War had a special claim upon the country.

This fact alone should technically justify a person eligible for relief

(Continued on page 203, col. 2).

(Continued from front page.)

The joint War Committee originally engaged a number of nurses for six months at a salary of £2 2s. a week. The Secretary, Mr. Stockings, then wrote asking the nurses to accept £1, "in order to leave as much money as possible available for the sick and wounded." Protests were made by the *Nursing Times* and the *British Medical Journal*, and the Committee therefore agreed to carry out the original contracts, but to engage all subsequent nurses at £1 a week, and to reduce the salaries of the nurses engaged on the £2 2s. basis at the end of six months.

It is to save such low salaries that amateurs are allowed to play at nursing the wounded soldiers.

The Poplar Mayor's Local Representative Committee for the Prince of Wales's fund has only met four times in the seven months since War was declared—on August 17th, 24th, 27th and November 4th. On August 27th, the report of the General Purposes committee, elected on August 24th, was accepted. This report embodied the suggestion that applicants for relief should register at the four public libaries and that afterwards their cards should be sent on by paid officials to the representative Ward Subcommittees. I then asked whether it was intended that all applicants should be allowed to register and the question of their eligibility be decided by the representative Ward Sub-committees. The Mayor replied to me in the affirmative, but a day or two afterwards I discovered that the clerks at the Library had been given discretionary power to reject applicants and that after being registered at the library, the applicants cards might be suppressed and frequently are if the Mayor, the Borough Treasurer or the Clerks at the Town Hall happen to think fit.

At the last meeting of the committee on November 4th, I again urged that the Main Local Representative Committee or its Ward Sub-committees should judge as to the eligibility and suitability of every case. A resolution was thereupon adopted by the Committee, stating that a list of the names and addresses of applicants who were considered by the officials ineligible for relief, should be sent to each Ward Committee, in order that the members might investigate the circumstances and report disputed cases to the main Committee.

This resolution, like many others, has remained a dead letter. Members of Ward Committees are constantly coming across people whom they consider eligible for relief, but who have been rejected at the Town Hall.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—H. Renny, Esq. 5.0.0, Mrs. Ivory 2.0, Miss H. E. Sloane 1.5.0, Dr. Wilkes 1.0.0, Miss N. McMunn 1.0.0, Miss Hudson 10.0, Mrs. Parsons collected 7.10, I. E. Phillips, Esq., 2.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS :—Share of profits of West Hampstead meeting 10.7.9, Mrs. G. Hecht 3.3.0, Miss I. Campbell 2.12.0, Mrs. Dangerfield 2.10.0, The Misses Bedford 2.2.0, Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon 2.2.0, J. Glicksten (monthly) 2.0.0, Miss A. Uding 1.10.0, Collection Bow Baths 1.3.3, Mrs. Fox 1.1.0, Miss E. Barnes 1.1.0, Messrs. Lush & Cook 1.1.0, A. Gliksten, Esq. 1.0.0, Mrs. Cobden Unwin 1.0.0, Mr. Gulliver, per Mr. G. Belt 1.0.0, Miss Beck 1.0.0, Miss S. Orme 11.0, Lady Lely (monthly) 1.0.0, Miss B. Harraden (monthly) 10.0, The Teachers and Girls of Hyndburn Park School 10.0, Miss A. J. Wright 10.0, Miss E. J. Cattle 10.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, A. & M. 10.0, Anon, Hornsey (weekly) 10.0, Mrs. Gillies 7.6, Mr. & Mrs. Thorrington 5.0, Miss J. Johnson 5.0, Mrs. D. McFarlane 5.0, Mrs. H. S. Sampson 5.0, A little Girl 4.2, per A. J. Clifford Ewen, Esq. 3.6, Collection 'At Home,' Feb. 12th 3.6, Miss Milman 3.0, Three North London Locomotive Men 3.0, Anon 3.0, Miss Balchin 2.0, Miss Harrison 2.6, Mr. Gompels 2.6, H. Groves, Esq. 2.6, Miss E. Skeen 2.6, Miss Setchfield 1.10, Mrs. Feeney 1.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0, Mrs. Sparborough 2d.

COLLECTING BOXES—MILK DAYS.—Mrs. Bird 12.6½, Mrs. Drake (outside Spratt's) 5.11½, Miss Wilmore 4.9½, E.L.F.S. Factory Workers 4.8, Miss Lagsding (outside Green's) 4.5½, Miss N. Mannicom 2.8, Miss Mannicom 1.0½.

CLOTHES.—Miss Johanson, Mrs. Vincent, Mrs. Cyril Isherwood, Mrs. Ben Webster, Miss Hazel, Suffrage Club--York Street, Mrs. Richardson, Miss Ruth Hancock, Miss E. Hancock, Mrs. M. Gibbes, Miss E. Canning, Mrs. D. MacFarlane, Miss Skeen, Mrs. Feeney, Mrs. Boyd Barrow, Miss Morgan-Jones.

3s. 9d. which Miss Rutter collected, was, by mistake, put down to Bow. Miss Rutter is a Poplar member.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

Subscribed :
January 1914—£4,430,000.
Expended :
S.S.F.A.—£1,104,000.
Civil Distress—£186,000.

THE COMMITTEE THAT DOES NOT MEET.

"In view of the greatly improved conditions of employment generally" the Government Committee thinks Poplar is spending too much on relief. So it writes to the Secretary of the Local Representation Committee for the Metropolitan Borough of Poplar, and expresses the hope that the Local Representation Committee will make arrangements "for the purpose of carrying into effect the suggestions made in this letter" as to more careful investigation, etc.

Unfortunately the Local Committee in Poplar makes no arrangements at all—it does not even discuss the arrangements made by the officials who control the registration of applicants and the doling out of relief. It escapes all the responsibility and all the trouble by a simple expedient—it does not meet.

And while it does not meet, what is happening? For one thing there is a satisfactory diminution of applicants for relief which makes the lethargic members of the Committee-that-does-not-meet more certain than ever that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. Secondly, in the more prosperous wards of the Borough the Ward Secretaries have nothing to do, and thirdly, the Ward Secretaries in districts such as the North and West Wards of Bow are running their heads against a brick wall of inaction and officialdom with no possible ventilation of their grievances,

It must be remembered that at the fountain head there is the Government Committee and the Trustees of the National Relief Fund, who are anxious to save every penny they can and invest it in Canada. When asked for money by the Mayor of Poplar (unsupported by his Committee because it never meets) they consult the Board of Trade returns and find that there is not only very little unemployment, but an actual shortage of labour in the Borough, and forgetting that a skilled artisan who has, all his life, pursued an indoor occupation is not necessarily physically fit to follow the trade of a general labourer in all weathers, and that women can neither dig trenches nor go to war, they reply that relief cannot really be needed, the applicants could find work if they liked. Imagination being at a premium in all departments connected with Government, this mistake is natural enough and it should be the business of the Committee-that-never-meets to remove the misconception.

What actually happens is that the Borough officials, who have absolute control of the administration of relief in Poplar, try to cut down their requirements instead of insisting on having the necessary money. With this object in view they sift the applications for relief before sending them to the Ward Committees for investigation—that being the function for which the Ward Committees were created. Members of the Ward Committees and their Secretaries are therefore met with complaints from people who have registered for relief and heard nothing further.

A case was recently brought to the notice of the Bow West Ward Committee of a mother and daughter who registered just after Christmas and have heard nothing since. Enquiries were made and the reply elicited was: "Oh, you see they are charwomen," and it was subsequently discovered that *all charwomen are disqualified because a male inspector from the L.G.B. is of opinion that charwomen are "casual" workers and as such are not directly affected by the War!* His wife could have told him that a charwoman may be in as regular employment as a domestic servant, and the fact that on different days she works for different employers is no evidence that her work is casual. Yet obviously when prices go up through the War, housewives save the money paid for cleaning by doing it themselves. The West Ward Committee has not yet discovered what other occupations *ipso facto* disqualify an applicant for relief. For all it knows Carters and Carpenters may be labelled "casual" because they begin with a "C"! But the matter is one upon which the Committee-that-does-not-meet ought to have a full discussion.

The powerlessness of the Ward Committees is illustrated by the following instance of the way in which its resolutions and requests are dealt with.

The Secretary of the West Ward Committee recently forwarded to the Joint Secretaries this letter :

'Dear Sirs,

I am directed by the Bow West Ward Committee to ask for a return of the applicants in this Ward who have registered but whose cards have *not* been forwarded to the Committee for investigation. Members of the Committee have from time to time met persons who inform them that they have registered and have heard nothing further. The Committee is of opinion that when cases are rejected the applicant ought to be informed of this rejection. They would therefore be glad if in future they could be supplied with the names of rejected applicants and the reasons for rejection, in order that the applicants may be visited and the matter explained to them. The Committee feels that any other course is discreditable to them as a Committee. Moreover a Committee member visiting such a case is often in a position to give advice to the applicant as to where he or she can best apply for assistance.

Yours faithfully,
E. SHARP, Hon. Sec.'

This letter, having been sent a week ago, the Secretary has not yet received a reply, but she has learnt in the meanwhile that post cards have been printed which will be sent to rejected applicants from the Council Offices, where the applications are first sifted, informing them of their rejection. The counter move on the part of the Poplar Officials serves two purposes. First it is obvious that a printed post card will not give any explanation of the reasons for rejection, beyond possibly the official formula of "not coming within the scope of the National Relief Fund." Secondly the danger of discovery on the part of the Ward Committee when visiting, that such a rejection is unjustifiable, is avoided, and—crowning triumph!—the expenses of relief are kept down.

It is perhaps cogent to this matter to explain on how much information applications are thus discarded by persons who have nothing but the bare facts given on the card to go upon. The registration card states name, address, age, status (whether married or single), occupation, number of dependents, date and place of last employment, sources of income besides applicant's own earnings, details with regard to insurance against unemployment and sickness, and the amount of income derived from other sources such as benefit, half-pay from employers, aid from charitable funds, etc. These are the data from which someone at the Council Offices decides who is ineligible for relief.

One concludes that the members of the Committee-that-never-meets have not even troubled to inform themselves of what is being done in their name. Even when they learn it there is a strong temptation to lay the blame on those whose duty it is to summon them. But they cannot get out of their responsibility as easily as this. Something can be done—and to do nothing is to aquiesce in a thoroughly discreditable and unjust state of affairs. It is a matter which ought not to be delayed. Even while they delay "isolated cases," which are dismissed so airily by unimaginative persons, are starving or piling up a mountain of debt in order to maintain a bare existence. Their distress is not to be laid at the door of a generous public which has subscribed over four millions and a half for their relief (not for Canadian investments), nor is it to be laid at the door of the Mayor of Poplar and his officials alone. It is the responsibility of every member of the Local Representative Committee. It is for them to see that something is done and done at once.

We give below an analysis of the trades of those who are being relieved in the West Ward of Bow, and invite either the Government Committee or the Poplar Officials to put their finger on cases which are undeservedly getting relief.

TRADE.	No Unemployed.	No On part time.	Remarks.
I.—*Men.*			
Paper Stainers (Allen Cockshutt's firm, Old Ford)	—	14	All doing a regular 3 or 4 days a week (these are 24 % of total number relieved).
Boot Trade	1	4	
French Polishers ...	—	3	
Cabinet Maker	1	—	Age 66.
Bricklayers	—	2	
Fur Trade	2	—	Importation of skins from Central Europe interfered with. Occasional work.
Cook-and-Carver ...	2	—	
Paper Hanger	—	1	In regular employ of his firm before War.
Silk Weaver	—	1	Age 48.
Sugar Boiler	—	1	Regular 3 days per week.
Trunk Finisher	1	—	Cripple.
Clerk	1	—	"Company work"; age 64.
In business for themselves: Oil Salesman	1	—	Affected by lighting order. Not fit for labourer's work. Promised post as club porter when present porter (Reservist) is called up.
In business for themselves: Paper Bag Seller ...	—	1	Unfit for labourer's work. Still doing a little business.
In business for themselves: Toothpick Maker ...	—	1	As Paper Bag Seller, above.
In business for themselves: Blacksmith	1	—	Works at own forge. Chiefly employed by jobbing builders, etc.
	10	28	
II.—*Women.*			
Washing & Cleaning ...	—	7	Two of these will be discontinued this week.
Box Makers	—	3	One now in full work. Discontinued this week.
Feather Trade	2	—	One recommended for Queen's Workrooms. Not yet sent for.
Shoe Trade	1	—	Moving to Central Ward.
Waterproofer	—	1	Age 48.
Tailoring	—	1	Age 40.
Patent Capsule Maker...	—	1	Averages about half normal wages.
Coffee Shop Hand ...	—	1	
Brush Worker	—	1	She and husband "work for themselves," therefore firms will not give them work. Bristles expensive and scarce.
Warehouse Hand, now doing Charing ...	—	1	With firm 28 years previous to August last.
Employed at Queen's Workrooms	—	1	3s. weekly for children.
	3	17	
Men's total ...	10	28	
	13	45	

Total number of applicants relieved 58.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

Organiser: MISS MANICOM, 321 Roman Rd.

We are preparing to hold a debate on Friday evenings, after the business of the week has been discussed, and as these debates are sure to be most interesting and instructive, will all members make a special effort to attend regularly every Friday evening.

At the last general meeting it was proposed to start a Suffrage Club for members and their friends. Let us get to work at once on this scheme and make it a huge success, as it will greatly develop our movement. Club Committee :— Mrs. W. Lansbury, Mrs. Passoe, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Savoy, Mrs. Crabbe, Miss Marks.

The open-air meetings will be forming a great part of our propaganda now, so will members volunteer, to support the speaker once a week, or to sell papers?

Mrs. Savoy offered to sell another dozen papers every week amongst her friends. Here is an opportunity for all. Who will follow her example?

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries :
MRS. MCCHEYNE & MRS. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Excellent meeting held Tuesday evening. We regret Mrs. Walshe was unable to attend, but Miss Manicom gave a good account of "How food prices have gone up since the War began." Will members try and bring as many friends as possible with them next week, as we expect Miss Pankhurst.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser : MRS. DRAKE.

The number of dinners at our Cost Price Restaurant is steadily increasing. Our Sale which is held on Mondays at 6.30 p.m., at which new and secondhand clothes are sold, is well attended. The number of babies needing milk is increasing as a result of all other food being dearer. One can only pick out the worst cases to help. We need more subscriptions. Will anyone take a collecting box or a subscription sheet to help us in this work?

Another important branch of our work is giving advice, as so many people are not getting what they are entitled to for want of knowledge. There are always people who will take advantage of this ignorance.

Miss S. Pankhurst was our speaker on Tuesday evening, also Mrs. Schlette, and we had a very good meeting. On Friday, Mrs. Scurr spoke to very good audience of mothers. We are pleased to welcome these mothers and hope they will bring some of their friends. A fine meeting at Piggott St. on Friday, Mrs. Thompson speaker. Will members of Poplar Choir attend at 94 Upper North Street, on Wednesday, Feb. 24th.? This is important!

The Poplar Social will be held at 20 Railway Street on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 7.30 sharp. Tickets can be obtained now.

Dreadnoughts sold, week ending Feb. 12—147.

Distributors—Mrs. Schlette, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Churcher, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Bird.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. BONARIUS, 89 Wyke Road.

We are arranging to hold joint social with E.L.F.S., Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, Saturday, March 6th, 8 p.m. in aid of babies' milk fund. Joint committee to meet next Tuesday, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m. Tickets for Social from Hon. Sec., or G. Stone, 4 Eglington Road, or any other members of R.S.P.U.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Good meeting held Finsbury Park Sunday. Meeting as usual next Sunday at 3 p.m. Speakers urgently needed. Contributions gratefully received. Date and place of our big public meeting will be announced next week.

A LEAGUE OF RIGHTS FOR SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES AND RELATIVES.

A League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives has been formed. The committee of this League consists of sixteen women who are eligible for Naval and Military separation allowances or pensions and eight other persons. Mrs. Despard is President of the League, Mrs. George Lansbury is Hon. Sec., and Mr. J. H. Banks, Hon. Financial Sec. Applications to join the League should be sent by post to Mrs. George Lansbury. 103 St. Stephen's Road, the envelopes being carefully marked "League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives."

A GOOD WAY TO HELP.

On Saturday 13th February, Mrs. Sadd-Brown gave a "Pleasant and Profitable" At Home for the funds of the E.L.F.S. and the Poplar Suffrage Club. Mr. and Mr. Henry Holiday and Mrs. Hartley Withers have also kindly given At Homes for our funds.

(*Continued from page* 198.)

from the Prince of Wales's fund, in refusing to accept work under the Distress Committee. Yet the names of those who refuse are sometimes struck off the relief roll even where to accept it would mean the loss of part time employment, and consequently the prospect of being taken on as a full time worker again should trade improve.

Moreover, it is urged that some people abuse the mean little doles meted out to them. Since the Central Committee of the Prince of Wales's fund issued instructions for the cutting down of relief, inquiries into character are becoming more inquisitorial, and the fact that an unemployed woman has an illegitimate child, though the child may be upwards of a year old, is brought forward sometimes as a reason for not granting her relief under the Prince of Wales's fund as a sufferer through the War.

Cases are ruthlessly struck off the roll in which it is discovered that, though rising prices and some loss of work by one or other member may have increased the family's hardship, they have always lived with the wolf of poverty and starvation close beside the door. Because you have always been very poor and suffering, say the committees, though you be poorer yet, we can give no help. If a woman has been earning below the scale on which the Cabinet Committee dictates that relief may be granted, even if her earnings have been no more than 6s. or 7s., and she has a family of little children, the Relief Committees cannot give her more than her wages amounted to. Each week she is visited by a member of a Ward Committee; each week she appears to apply for relief in person, and is closely questioned by officials, before the paltry 6s. or 7s., which she and her children manage to exist on, is doled out!

Prices may rise till the quartern loaf alone costs the whole of her 6s., but the rule is clear, she must not get one penny more than she was earning before this War—nay she must have less!

We have been told by dreamers, amongst us strange stories of wondrous social reconstruction, and that a new world is maturing for us after the War—well may we pray of them to tell *how* it *can* come!

And yet if we would but act in regard to all these thorny problems with the energy and courage that Russia showed in the Vodka prohibition, there is not one of the problems we might not hope to solve.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

CHILD LABOUR.

Mr. Pease, President of the Board of Agriculture, and Mr. McKenna the Home Secretary (of forcible feeding infamy), have been trying to shift the responsibility of allowing children to leave school to become little slaves at 5s. a week or less, and to do the heavy work of the farms, from the shoulders of the Government to those of the Local Authority. But the responsibility of the Government for what has taken place is very clear.

In the House of Commons, on Aug. 28th, Mr. Charles Bathurst asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that a large number of farmers were ready and anxious to facilitate the enlistment after harvest of the younger men in their employ if they could have the services of boys between eleven and fourteen years of age . . . . and whether under such exceptional circumstances the Government would suspend the provisions of the Education Acts, or would enable boys over eleven years of age in purely agricultural districts to furnish such assistance subject to the approval and supervision of the local educational authority?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I will bear in mind the hon. member's suggestion. It would appear that the matter is well within the discretion of the local authorities, who have already had their attention called to it by the Board of Education.

MR. BATHURST: Are we to understand that if the local authorities took such action they would not meet with the disapproval of the Board of Education?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Sir.

In receiving a deputation from the Labour War Emergency Committee on this subject last week, Mr. Pease said that Mr. Asquith's words were only intended to apply to the emergency created by the recruiting rush coinciding with the harvest, and were not intended to apply to the whole farming year. But neither Mr. Asquith's Parliamentary reply nor the Board of Education's circular contained any suggestion of limiting child labour to the harvest, and the Government which has itself introduced the evil must take steps to abolish it.

Mr. Pease expressed sympathy with the views of the deputation, saying that the farmers demanded boys to work on the fields only where cheap labour was required, and that the wages offered to women were "practically no more than pocket money," but he promised no Government protection for the children, only "suggested" that the local authorities should be persuaded to "use their discretion wisely."

IN PARLIAMENT.

On February 11th, Mr. Will Thorne called attention to the fact that the Soke of Peterborough Education Committee passed a resolution allowing children of eleven years to be absent from school from February to November this year in order that they may be employed in agriculture, and that this resolution was carried by two votes only, the clerk having ruled that members representing electoral divisions in the City might not vote and only one Alderman, two rural members and seven co-opted members being present beside.

Mr. Barnes called attention to the case of two boys of 12 and 13 years who were employed full time on the night shift of Woods' bottle factory, Portobello Road, attended school during the day and only got three hours sleep.

WELL DONE DENMARK!

Taking his stand upon the principle that the hygienic, social, and economic conditions under which man is born, and grows during his early years, are the decisive factors in his development, Mr. Castberg, a Cabinet Minister, has introduced a Bill into the Norwegian Parliament to give to the child, born out of wedlock, the right to his father's name, and to inherit from him on equal terms with his other children.

Mr. Castberg addressed the members of the Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) in a very eloquent and warm-hearted speech. He maintained that economic difficulties have a terribly weakening effect upon children, and leave permanent marks on them, especially when the mother is unable to give the natural nourishment and care necessary to the child. Desolation and distress amongst the mothers mean infirmity or death among the babies. As the children must continue the life of a nation, Mr. Castberg deems the unhappy plight of those who are made to suffer for their illegitimacy, or for the poverty of their parents, a breach of social justice as well as a critically dangerous matter for the State. It is, therefore, a task of vital importance to society to ameliorate the life conditions of mothers of the working classes, and especially those who have been deserted.

Society has not, until now, recognised the child's natural right to its parents. The Norwegian laws are still based on the shocking and unnatural fiction that a child born out of wedlock has no father — only a mother — even where there be no doubt concerning the paternity. Except that a claim may be made upon the father for a money contribution towards its maintenance, the child is excluded from him, having a right neither to know his family, to bear his name, nor to have any fortune from its father. In all that belongs to the mother the illegitimate child has all the rights belonging to any child, and the laws put the entire responsibility and care for its education upon the mother.

In Norway, the illegitimate child has the legal right to the mother's family name, and it is entitled to inherit from her and from all her family. The absence of equality in responsibility before the law of man and woman is the more injurious, because the woman is, as a rule, the suffering party. The birth of a child interferes with the mother's organism, and effects a revolution in her mental, physical, and economic life. It weakens, for a shorter or longer time, her capacity for working, on the one hand, and on the other calls on her strength for taking care of the child. The flagrantly disproportionate division of responsibility between the man and the woman is due to the fact that *it has been brought about by a set of laws in which women have had no share, a set of laws made only by men.* These laws not only act unjustifiably towards the mother and the child, but are a corrupting arrangement, because they exempt the man from the responsibility, and, therefore, tempt him to recklessness in a connection that ought to be the most serious and responsible one in the life of man, viz., that of bringing a child into the world. They subvert the man's respect for the woman, brutalise his view of the relationship of parents and of the parents and child. They thus set at nought that which should be the basis of married life.

At the same time, the man's legalised irresponsibility and anonymity throw his child into distress and shame, and make it feel itself to be an outcast. From these causes many an illegitimate child has gone to ruin.

A comparison of the mortality statistics of legitimate children with those of the illegitimate shows that the latter are three-fold higher than the former, and, according to the unanimous opinion of persons conversant with the subject, the principal reasons of this difference are the legalised irresponsibility of the father, the mental distress and the hard and difficult economic conditions of the mother, which, amongst other things, often destroys her power to suckle the child.

The growing social sense of justice, and *especially the woman's advance towards citizenship, with its accompanying rights and responsibilities towards society, have gradually given rise to the demand for a change in this disproportion between the responsibility of the man and of the woman.* In most countries, a strong movement to ameliorate the conditions of of the illegitimate child is to be found. *In Norway, the claims of women to equality with men in law and politics have prevailed further than in any other country,* and hence the introduction of the Bills now being considered by Parliament, which propose to remove the injustice by which the child is made to suffer because, of society's disapproval of the illegitimate union of the parents; to give the child a right to his father's name and inheritance; to increase the father's responsibility towards mother and child. FREDERICA MŒRCK.

WHO SOLD CANADA'S GIFT?

The official explanation of the selling of Canada's gift of potatoes is as follows:—

"Some of the potatoes in sacks did not appear to be keeping well, and a portion was disposed of by sale, the proceeds going to the National Relief fund, and a considerable quantity has been sent to hospitals where wounded are being treated."

This explanation is entirely unsatisfactory. There is an urgent demand amongst the poor for these potatoes, and there was no reason why their keeping property should have been tested. They ought to have been distributed for use at once. As the potatoes were given for the distressed poor it was not just to send any part of them to the hospitals. Members of ward commitees would have welcomed many more potato tickets to give to the distressed poor placed under their care.

SEND A CHEQUE TO THE "DREADNOUGHT" FUND.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.